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CZECH FOREIGN TRADE, SECURITY TIGHTENED

USSR, SATELLITES TO GET TOTAL INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT -- Trieste, Giornale di Trieste,
 14 Mar 51

Moscow has been exploiting to the full the advantages offered her in
 the 5-year "economic cooperation" agreement signed with Czechoslovakia. The
 USSR has actually absorbed Czechoslovakia's industrial output.

The conditions of Czechoslovak industry are practically identical with
 those faced at the time of the German protectorate when the Skoda plants
 had become an integral part of the Hermann Goering industrial trust. The
 Kremlin's aims are the same as those pursued by Hitler's economic planners.

According to Cominform sources, the exchange of goods between Czecho-
 slovakia and the USSR during the period 1951-1955 will exceed by 50 percent
 the volume of goods exchanged during the years 1948-1950. The average annual
 imports from the USSR will be 10 million tons of raw materials, while the
 Soviet Union and its satellites will actually absorb the entire output of
 Czechoslovak industry. This will inevitably bring about acute shortages on
 Czechoslovakia's domestic markets.

Heavy industry, mostly concentrated in Moravska Ostrava and Plzen, is
 expected to receive 2½ times more iron ore and minerals for special alloys
 than in previous years. The USSR will triple the previous quantities of its
 copper deliveries, and send twice as much aluminum as before. The deliveries
 of lead, zinc, nickel, and scrap iron will also be increased.

The purpose of the Soviet-Czechoslovak economic agreement is to make the
 industries of its satellite completely independent of Western markets. This
 explains why the goods to be delivered by the USSR include such items as
 edible oils, fats, machinery for mining and construction enterprises, and
 various equipment. Orders already placed by Czechoslovak industries with the
 West, which included chemical and smelting machinery, had to be canceled.

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One of the clauses of the agreement provides for the exchange of technical personnel, which in substance means that entire branches of Czechoslovakia's industry will be taken over and directed by Soviet technicians.

There have been indications that Moscow is not fully satisfied with the results obtained and with the conduct of the Czechoslovak Communist leaders. The Czechoslovak people also have come to learn about the true causes of the country's economic difficulties, as best exemplified in the case of Mannesmann tubing.

This tubing is essential to the Soviet petroleum industry. Since the production of such tubing fell far behind the estimates of the Soviet Five-Year Plan, Moscow demanded that it be supplied by Czechoslovakia. The USSR has requisitioned the entire Czechoslovak output of Mannesmann tubing, a telling blow to the automobile, mechanical, and other industries of Czechoslovakia.

Josef Jonas, the Minister of Light Industry, had to resign after only a short tenure of office. He was replaced by Alois Malek, a former tailor, a man in the good graces of Moscow. Malek went to the USSR in 1926 and worked there in factories producing military uniforms. He received decorations for his zeal, including the Order of 24 February, the date of the Communist putsch in Prague. Malek's [sic] task is to see that the plan in the textile industry is fulfilled.

Minister of Heavy Industry Kliment, who had fallen into disgrace, prepared his self-criticism, which was published in Rude Pravo. It is doubtful, however, whether his confession of guilt for deficiencies in his ministry will appease the Kremlin. Thousands of Czechoslovak state functionaries have already been eliminated and sent to repent their errors in forced labor camps.

REPORT UNREST IN PRAGUE -- Trieste, Messaggero Veneto, 24 Feb. 51

Rumors of unrest which have been spreading for some time in Czechoslovakia are now substantiated by the declarations of the Communist supporters of the Prague government.

With the arrest of Minister of Health Plojhar, the excommunicated Catholic priest, Minister of the Interior Nosek admitted explicitly to day that anti-Communist elements have recently gone so far as to commit political assassinations.

Yesterday and today meetings of the Central Committee of the Communist Party were held at the presidential palace in Prague to examine the internal situation. The conclusions reached are not yet known. The police set up a heavy guard around the palace.

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